

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 FREETO 03685 150904Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 MED-03 /027 W
-----127822 151514Z /43

R 150806Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6508

UNCLAS FREETOWN 3685

FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: AODE, TBIO, SL
SUBJ: LASSA FEVER RESEARCH PROJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
POSITION

REF: A-4171, 17 JUNE 75

1. BY LETTER OF OCTOBER 27 THE DIRECTOR OF THE LASSA FEVER
RESEARCH PROJECT, DR. JOSEPH B. MCCORMICK, HAS REQUESTED
APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN
MEDICAL OFFICER POSITION AT THE CENTER LOCATED AT KENEMA,
EASTERN PROVINCE.

2. JUSTIFICATION PER ATTACHMENT A, DEPAIRGRAM A-4171, 17
JUNE 75:

A. CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL, USPHS

B. MEDICAL OFFICER

C. ASSIST DIRECTOR IN CARRYING OUT DIAGNOSTIC AND RESEARCH
STUDIES. CONTACTS WILL BE CHIEFLY WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OFFICIALS AS WELL AS LOCAL OFFICIALS AT KENEMA.

D. PROBABLY 3RD QUARTER FY1978; DURATION UNKNOWN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 FREETO 03685 150904Z

E. FURTHER ASSISTANCE WITH MAIL, POUCH, CASHIER, AND TELEG-
GRAPHIC OPERATIONS. THE PROJECT NOW DOES ITS OWN BUDGET AND
FISCAL, PERSONNEL, HAULAGE AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES&

F. APPROVED BY SIERRA LEONE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, MINISTRY
OF HEA8TH. PROJECT HAS CLEAR-CUT SL APPROVAL IN GENERAL.

G. NONE.

H. NOT APPLICABLE.

I. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND PROJECT DIRECTOR ONLY.

3. THE LASSA FEVER RESEARCH PROJECT IS ONE YEAR OLD HAVING BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) OF US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOLLOWING NEWS STORIES ABOUT "DEADLY" LASSA FEVER. PROJECT CURRENTLY HAS ONE AMERICAN DOCTOR WHO SERVES AS DIRECTOR, A PCV RESEARCH/LABORATORY ASSISTANT, A PCV ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/RESEARCHER AND EIGHT SIERRA LEONE EMPLOYEES. PROJECT HAS ALREADY DEFINED CLINICAL SYNDROME OF LASSA FEVER BY STUDYING 154 CASES OVER SIX MONTHS, HAS DEVELOPED PROMISING DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUE, HAS COLLECTED 100 UNITS OF HYPERIMMUNE PLASMA FROM RECOVERED PATIENTS (THIS IS WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLY), HAS DETERMINED THAT FEVER FAR MORE PREVALENT IN STUDY AREA THAN ANTICIPATED (ESTIMATE FEVER ATTACKS BETWEEN 4-15 PERSONS PER THOUSAND PER YEAR AND THAT 20 TO 40 PERCENT OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS IN STUDY AREA HAVE BEEN INFECTED AT SOMETIME IN THEIR LIVES) AND HAS ESTABLISHED THAT VIRUS RESERVOIR OF DISEASE IS THE MOST COMMON BUSH RAT IN AFRICA.

4. PROJECT PLANS TO DO FURTHER STUDIES ON EFFICACY OF HYPER-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 FREETO 03685 150904Z

IMMUNE PLASMA, OF THE RODENT VIRUS RESERVOIR ITSELF, OF RODENT INFECTION IN CASE HOMES PLUS OTHER STUDIES OF POPULATION AND DISEASE AMONG OTHER EFFORTS. PROJECT ALSO PLANS TO ESTABLISH DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TRAINING CENTER FOR TEACHING PERSONS FROM OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO THE DISEASE.

5. I RECOMMEND THIS REQUEST BE APPROVED. THE PROJECT IS NOT ONLY AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE ONE IN TRACKING DOWN AND FIGHTING A "NEW" DISEASE WHICH MAY WELL BE WIDESPREAD IN AFRICA, BUT IT IS EXCEPTIONALLY USEFUL AS MEDICAL INSURANCE IN PROTECTING AND, IF NECESSARY, TREATING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND OTHERS WHO MAY COME DOWN WITH THE DISEASE. IN COMPARISON WITH A DIFFICULT PEACE CORPS MEDEVAC CASE OF A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, THE PROJECT RECENTLY DIAGNOSED AND TREATED SUCCESSFULLY A LASSA FEVER VICTIM FROM THE BRITISH VOLUNTEER (VSO) GROUP.
LINEHAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, DISEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977FREETO03685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770422-0557
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771159/aaaabyby.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 05ca641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 588810
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LASSA FEVER RESEARCH PROJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL POSITION
TAGS: AODE, TBIO, SL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05ca641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009